

**SOCIETE FRANCO-BELGE DE FABRICATION DE COMBUSTIBLE - FBFC****ABSTRACT OF THE TECHNICAL CONTENT OF THE INVENTION.**

5           This method for the non-destructive testing of an element (3) for a nuclear reactor comprises the steps of :

          a) acquiring a radiographic digital image of at least one area in element (3),

          b) creating a reference image through the digital processing of the  
10 image obtained, and

          c) comparing the image obtained, processed if necessary, with the reference image to detect the presence of defects.

Application to the inspection of nuclear fuel rods.

Figure 1